

June 18, 2009



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Dear Friend,

Since returning from the Memorial Day Work Period, the House of Representatives has considered some legislation that I think would be of interest to you. I want to highlight just a few of these initiatives.

**Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act**

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), cigarette smoking causes an estimated 438,000 deaths (or one of every five deaths) each year. As reported by the CDC, "more deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined."

Given these realities, I am concerned about promoting the use of tobacco products among children and teenagers through candy-flavored cigarettes and colorful, cartoon-like advertising. The marketing of tobacco products to young children is particularly egregious. It was because of this targeting of young people that I joined in the lawsuit against the tobacco industry in my former capacity of Attorney General of our state.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (H.R. 1256) would provide for the regulation of tobacco products by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). H.R. 1256 would allow the Secretary to restrict the sale or distribution of tobacco products, including advertising and promotion. Moreover, the bill also prohibits cigarettes from containing any artificial or natural flavor (other than tobacco or menthol) or an herb or spice, including strawberry and other flavors designed to appeal to younger smokers.

I voted with a majority of my colleagues for passage of this bill, which cleared the House and Senate and is waiting for the President's signature.

**Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement (PEACE) Act**

I recently participated in meetings in Pakistan where one of the principal issues concerned aid and military assistance.

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Although Pakistan would prefer not to have to meet any "benchmarks" or "conditions" attached to aid coming from the United States, I believe benchmarks are essential given the situation on the ground. Pakistan needs to be strongly encouraged to respond to the deteriorating situation within its own borders – particularly given its proximity to Afghanistan and its role in the war on jihadism.

To this end, the House of Representatives recently passed the PEACE Act (H.R. 1886) which would provide democratic, economic, social development, and security assistance for Pakistan. Assistance is contingent upon Pakistan taking action to combat terrorist groups and dismantling networks that supply nuclear-grade material.

I voted in favor of this legislation, which passed the House 234-185.

### **Foreign Relations Authorization Act FY10-FY11**

The Foreign Relations Authorization Act (H.R. 2410) authorizes appropriations for the Department of State. Unfortunately, this legislation would use taxpayer money to encourage foreign access to abortion and to effect changes in the laws of foreign nations relating to sexual orientation. Regardless of one's views on the underlying issues in question, it is an inappropriate use of taxpayer money. Moreover, H.R. 2410 would increase U.S. contributions to the United Nations by about 32 percent without requiring any reforms of the organization, which is plagued by financial irregularities, waste and scandal.

For these reasons, I voted against H.R. 2410, which passed the House and is waiting consideration in the Senate.

### **Health Care Proposal**

The Kennedy-Dodd health care plan has been released and this week the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) published a preliminary analysis of the proposal. You can find the report [here](#). The CBO projects that "enacting the proposal would result in a net increase in federal budget deficits of about \$1.0 trillion over the 2010–2019 period. Once the proposal was fully implemented, about 39 million individuals would obtain coverage through the new insurance exchanges. At the same time, *the number of people who had coverage through an employer would decline by about 15 million (or roughly 10 percent), and coverage from other sources would fall by about 8 million*, so the net decrease in the number of people uninsured would be about 16 million" (emphasis mine). Please note that the CBO analysis does not take key provisions of the proposal in account, including:

- Medicaid expansion up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level;
- a public option;
- employer mandates;
- administrative costs of implementation;
- costs of establishing and implementing "gateways;" and
- effects on spending for other federal programs.

My staff and I are working to serve you well in Washington, DC and your comments are helpful for us in achieving that goal. Please feel free to contact my office in Gold River at (916) 859-9906 or e-mail me using the contact form on my [website](#).

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lungren  
Member of Congress

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Washington Office • 2262 Rayburn HOB • Washington DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5716 • Fax: (202) 226-1298

District Office • 2339 Gold Meadow Way, Suite 220 #763 • Gold River, CA 95670  
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